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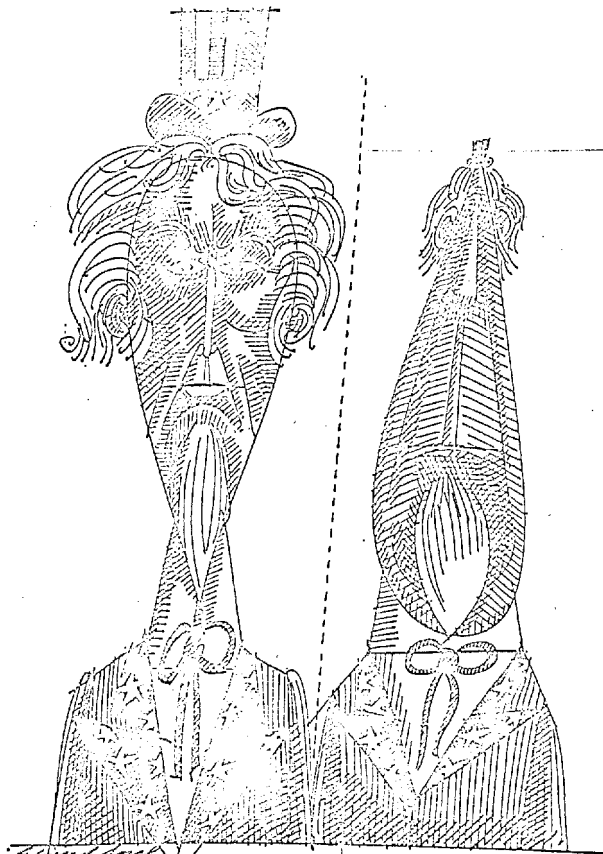
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the Outsider's Newsletter

"All We Know Is What We Don't Read in the Papers"



MYTHS AND REALITIES OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

By "PX" Foreign Affairs Expert

Sen. Fulbright's speech in the Senate urging that this country begin "thinking about unthinkable things" has been hailed as signalling far-reaching changes in our foreign policy. The sky over Washington is thick with trial balloons as top-level officials begin thinking the unthinkable. I have been talking to many of these men, and I can say that the ordinary citizen would be surprised at how unthinkable some of their thoughts

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are. They are also, for the most part, unprintable, unfortunately, so I cannot report them here. I can, however, report those that have to do with foreign affairs.

1. *RED CHINA*. Many officials are becoming increasingly convinced that our two-China policy is not as monolithic as it has seemed in the past. "It is a myth to say that mainland China is China," one official points out. "Actually, the Chinese people themselves call it something entirely different. They call it Chung-kuo. In Marco Polo's time it was known as Cathay to the Western world. If the Red, so-called Chinese would change their name to Cathay, there would no longer be two Chinas, and we could recognize them with ease."

2. *CUBA*. Most observers in the capital (and many who are not observers) agree that our economic blockade has been a failure. Beyond this fundamental area of agreement, however, they are divided on what future course of action we should follow. One school of thought adheres to the British "fat communist" theory, i.e., a prosperous, well-fed communist is less troublesome than a lean and hungry communist. This group is already on record as being critical of Sen. Keating's opposition to shipments of lard to Cuba. They favor massive shipments of lard as a means of increasing the Cuban waistline. "Once the Cubans acquire an addiction to lard," a spokesman for the group says, "they will be wanting butter next, and people who want butter don't want guns." Another group, however, is in favor of continuing economic warfare against the Cubans. This group is known as the "slim communist" faction. As a starter, they advocate flooding the world market with saccharine, thus undercutting Castro's sugar trade. Since Russia is the largest consumer of Cuban sugar, American propaganda should be aimed at making them diet-conscious. Premier Khrushchev's promise to give the Russian people more consumer goods so they can live like Americans will unwittingly aid this propaganda, because the inexorable laws of capitalism dictate that once people are well-fed they immediately become diet-conscious.

Most Republicans, however, will continue with a strong anti-Castro line until after the presidential election. The Republican National Committee is seriously considering having its nominee debate Fidel Castro, since he seems to be definitely available, in contrast to President Johnson. (Incidentally, the rumor that LBJ's reluctance to debate on television stems from the fact that station KTBC-TV has an exclusive contract for his TV appearances is not true.)

3. *VIETNAM*. Most observers believe, with Sen. Fulbright, that the United States should remain in South Vietnam. A new idea for the withdrawal of American troops has been proposed, however. This plan calls for "withdrawal by normal attrition." No new troops will be sent there, and all rotations home will be frozen indefinitely. At the rate American GIs are being killed there, it is calculated that by Christmas 1974 there will be no American troops in South Vietnam. Due to the adverse reaction of world opinion to the deaths of 16 Cambodian villagers, the decision to expand the war to Cambodia has been abandoned. The use of N.....M has not. There is also growing sentiment within the Administration in favor of Lodge for President of South Vietnam. Vietnam has a strong man, they reason, but it hasn't had a President since Diem. The CIA is presently at work whipping up draft-Lodge sentiment among the Vietnamese.